(b) doordarshan viewership had been affected to a certain extent in major cities because of a competition from satellite channels. However, due to the changes made in the content and presentation of programmes to suit the interest of the viewers, in recent months, the viewership figures are on the rise.

(c) and (d) Pakistan TV programmes are available in certain border areas of Jammu and Kashmir. For. expansion of Doordarshan coverage in the State, a special plan involving an outlay of Rs. 218 crores is under implementation. Under this special plan, Doordarshan coverage is expected to extend to about 95% of the population of the State over the next two years.

More Educational Programmes in DD

3139. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the programmes in Doordarshan are film or entertainment based ;

(b) if whether Government propose to take steps to change this scenario in order to educate people through this powerful media;

(c) whether Government will also take steps to monitor Doordarshan channels as well as private channels to improve the standard of their telecasting; and

(d) whether Governmemt will increase the time allotted for the educational programmes, particularly for the improvement of standards in the field of science and technology ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) and (b) Doordarshan, being a Public Service Broadcaster, caters to the needs of all the target audiences to create healthy and informed society by airing programmes of different genres and subject covering *inter alia,* education, information and entertainment. It has been intimated by Prasar Bharati that films and film based programmes account for only 10-12% of the total transmission time on Doordarshan.

(c) It is the constant endeavour of Prasar Bharti to bring about qualitative improvement in Doordarshan programmes to sustain viewer's interest.

The Broadcasting Law has to been enacted by the Parliament yet. The Government propose to bring before the Parliament a comprehensive legislation which will, *inter alia,* provide for regulatory mechanism for various aspects of broadcasting.

(d) The test transmission of the new channel of Doordarshan—GYAN DARSHAN (Educational Channel of India) was launched on 26th January., 2000. The channel is in initial stage and increase/improvement in its various programme segments including those on science and technology will be taken care of, as needed.

Telecasting of Nepali films with sub-title

3140. SHRI DAWALAMA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that, Doordarshan does not telecast Nepali film with sub-title like films in other regional language;

(b) the reasons for such discrimination;

(c) whether Government will agree to give relaxation for at least ten years to any such policies which has debarred the telecasting of Nepali films with sub-title; and

(d) if not, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (d) Prasar Bharati have intimated that films in Nepali language, like films in other regional languages can also be telecast on the National Network of Doordarshan provided such films fulfil the eligibility criteria. It has further been intimated by Prasar Bharati that no Nepali language film has so far been offered to Doordarshan for telecast.

Time for Telecasting Nepali Programmes

3141. SHRI DAWALAMA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that Calcuta Doordarshan has slashed down the time of telecasting of Nepali programmes during last two years;